

APPROVED
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (EDAB)
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY January 14, 2015 – 3:45 P.M.

Board Members		Attendance – January thru December	
		Present	Absent
Jason Crush, Chair	A	0	1
Cary Goldberg, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Nikki Austin	P	1	0
Gary Farmer	P	1	0
Kit Denison	P	1	0
Jason Hughes	A	0	1
Cort Neimark	P	1	0
Denyse O’Grady	P	1	0
Dev Motwani	P	1	0
Keith Costello	P	1	0

At this time, there are 10 appointed members to the Board, which means 6 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Al Battle, Economic & Community Reinvestment Manager
Laura Gambino, Business Development Coordinator
Thomasina Turner, Project Coordinator
Audrey Gough, Economic Development Aide
Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III

I. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum

Vice Chair Goldberg called the meeting to order at 3:51 p.m. and it was determined that a quorum was present at this time.

Communications to City Commission

None

II. Approval of December 10, 2014 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Motwani and seconded by Mr. Costello to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting. In a voice vote the **motion** passed unanimously.

III. Welcome New Members

The Board and staff members introduced themselves.

New member Gary Farmer, Esquire introduced himself and spoke briefly about why he excited to be a part of this Board.

New member Nikki Austin introduced herself and gave some background on her experience. Since she has recently relocated to the area, she expressed her desire to re-engage and work in the community.

IV. Marine Industry Update

This item is being postponed until the February meeting.

For the Good of the Board

The Board briefly discussed the Economic Development Strategic Plan. Ms. Gambino stated that staff is working along with the consultant to create the memo of understanding with community partners on select initiatives.

Vice Chair Goldberg updated the Board regarding their plan to move forward with a consultant to look at Form-based Code for the Uptown area. He explained that form-based code is a land development regulation that he felt will be more predictable. A form-based code is a regulation, not a mere guideline which contrasts with conventional zoning's focus on the micromanagement and segregation of land uses. Vice Chair Goldberg stated that for additional information on Invision Uptown contact dana@adept.co at Adept Strategist, Inc. He also stated Board meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Motwani stated that The Gale will be opening on South Beach directly behind the W Hotel. He stated that is a hotel and a condo with a price point that has not yet been touched in the market. Mr. Motwani gave some additional background on this boutique hotel. He stated that his company will be opening another development project soon.

Mr. Costello updated the Board about the upcoming Downtown Regional Activity Center (RAC) meeting on January 22, 2015. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Denison updated the Board on the Pier 17 Shady Banks is being developed as 26 Boat Houses. It was debuted at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show and slips are scheduled to be sold at the Miami Boat Show.

The Board discussed the homeless issue and the negative publicity the City received in regard to the homeless feeding. Mr. Costello stated that he serves on Broward County's Continuum of Care Board (CCC). He stated that the CCC Board goal is ending homelessness for veterans by 2015. The CCC Board felt that the problem is *housing* not feeding the homeless. The CCC Board is seeking ways of raising the funds to provide the needed housing such as getting the business community involved. Mr. Costello felt that the business community is affected by the homeless issue and suggested that Michael Wright from Broward County come speak with this Board about how to engage the business community and get them involved with the Continuum of Care and it's Housing Initiative.

Vice Chair Goldberg stated that in line with this Board's purpose, that person would want to focus his/her presentation on economic development and how the business community's involvement would be a value.

Mr. Battle updated the Board on the Beach Redevelopment Advisory Board's (BRAB) presentation of December 14th and stated that a funding decision will be made at the next BRAB meeting and the Commission is expected to adopt the plan in February.

There was discussion about the Las Olas Marina.

Mr. Battle stated that the Economic Development Strategic Plan is still being worked on, specifically with Small Business Development, Retail Recruitment and Marketing. Staff is hoping to go back before the Commission in March.

Mr Battle stated that the Commission unanimously adopted the zoning recommendations with some amendments at the west end. It will come before the Commission for second reading and is expected to pass.

Mr. Battle informed the Board of an upcoming Workshop regarding density in the Downtown, the Beach and Uptown and encouraged members to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by Patricia L. Smith, Secretary III]